

***Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park  
Park Advisory Commission Meeting***

September 20, 2007

Warren County Government Center  
Front Royal, Virginia

Agenda

- I) General Introduction
- II) Election of Commission Chair and Vice Chair
- III) Review and Approval of Minutes of July 19, 2007, meeting
- IV) GMP status update
- V) Comments or questions on the zone prescription handout
- VI) Old Business
- VII) New Business
- VIII) Next Meeting Strasburg Town Hall, December 13, 2007

Meeting Notes

Commission members in attendance: Diann Jacox, Designated Federal Official (DFO); Fred Andreae; Mary Bowser, chair; Patrick Farris; Randy Jones; Howard Kittell; Elizabeth McClung; Dan Stickley; and Kris Tierney.

Commission members absent: Gene Dicks, Roy Downey, Gary Rinkerman, Jim Smalls.

Others in attendance: Bob Grogg, NPS volunteer; Robert King, *Northern Virginia Daily*; Sarah Mauck, Strasburg; Pam Sheets, Shenandoah County Parks and Recreation; Chris Stubbs, NPS; Val Van Meter, Frederick County Equine Network; Hillary Watson, *Warren Sentinel*

Chair Mary Bowser opened the meeting and asked members to report on any activities in the upcoming months:

- Belle Grove will be heavily involved with the Battle of Cedar Creek reenactment in October
- Warren County will host the Festival of Leaves in mid-October
- The Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation will sponsor a seminar on the 1864 campaign at the Godfrey Miller House, release a publication on Sheridan, and on November 8 hold its annual meeting at the Hall of Valor
- Strasburg will hold its October Fest/Sunday in the Park October 7

Mary Bowser announced that the first order of business was to elect a new chair. Having served two full terms the bylaws require that a new chair be selected. Commission members decided not to have a separate election for vice-chair, but to have the person with the second highest number of votes serve in that position. Ballots were distributed,

marked, collected, and counted. Kris Tierney is the new chair, and Randy Jones is the new vice-chair.

Chair Kris Tierney conducted the remainder of the meeting.

The notes from the July 19, 2007, meeting were reviewed and approved.

Chris Stubbs reported that the draft General Management Plan (GMP) is on schedule for being submitted to the NPS Washington Office by the end of the fiscal year, September 30. Once officials in Washington approve the draft it will be sent to the printer to prepare it for public distribution. The formal public comment period will commence once the draft is an official public document. Chris and Diann Jacox have been meeting with the park's congressional delegation on the alternatives and have been keeping them informed of the progress and schedule.

Commission members talked about how to respond to the document. Should they respond individually, as a group, should the comments reflect a consensus of members, were among the issues raised. There was consensus that a subcommittee of commission members would be created to review the document and make a presentation to the full commission. Chris Stubbs reminded the members that now that the GMP was out of the park's hands and in the Washington Office, he could not predict the start or finish of the review.

Stubbs also reported that he has been meeting with officials in Strasburg as they redo their own comprehensive plan.

Commission members expressed satisfaction with the zone prescriptions, saying specifically that the details provided by the National Park Service helped to clarify many questions and allay concerns that they or others might have.

#### New Business

Diann Jacox introduced a new topic for commission members to consider as she spoke about why she had included Dwight Pitcaithley's essay on the NPS and its approaching Centennial in the package for this meeting.

Diann began by saying that the commission had worked long and hard on the GMP, and sending it to the Washington Office represented a milestone in achievement as well as an opportunity to move in new directions. NPS Director Mary Bomar is talking with the Congress on funding opportunities for the agency across the ten years surrounding the Centennial, and she is working with park superintendents about projects that they need for their individual parks. Most likely any funding that parks receive will require matching partnership dollars. Diann stressed how this could be a potential problem for Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP since we do not currently have a source for matching funds. The key partners already have connections to local sources for giving and the NPS does not wish to compete for those same dollars.

Over the next few meetings Diann is planning to invite different speakers to talk about the NPS, its future, funding opportunities, and be able to answer questions that the Commission has as it heads into this new future. Diann concluded that much work remains in securing approval for the GMP, but that commission members need to be thinking about the future. She stressed that the unknowns are great in the Centennial program. Nothing will be certain until the Congress has acted. Once the GMP is completed, the Commission will need to address a new set of issues.

Next Meeting will be December 13 in the Strasburg Town Hall.

Chair Kris Tierney adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Handouts provided at the September 20, 2007, meeting

1. Meeting agenda
2. Meeting Notes from the July 19, 2007, meeting
3. GMP status update
4. Zones prescriptions document
5. Dwight Pitcaithley essay, *On the Brink of Greatness, National Parks and the Nest Century*